

DOCKET NO: 218209US26

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
KIYOSHI YOSHIKUMI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: HODGE, R.
SERIAL NO: 10/050,866 :
FILED: JANUARY 18, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1795
FOR: ONBOARD FUEL CELL SYSTEM :
AND METHOD OF DISCHARGING
HYDROGEN-OFF GAS

SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

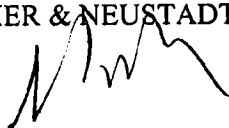
SIR:

Supplemental to the Request for Continued examination filed today, Applicants wish to further point out that WO 00/63993 merely discloses that the valve (7) is opened when hydrogen concentration of hydrogen-off gas discharged from the fuel cell is high. On the contrary, the valve (414) of the claimed invention is controlled to open/close in order to adjust a ratio between the hydrogen-off gas and the oxygen-off gas.

It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine Joerissen et al. and Boneberg et al., and thereby reach the invention recited in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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